

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2566

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016

Terrace Farming

Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote a new policy on terrace farming in view of shrinkage of cultivable land due to rapid industrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): No Madam. As per available estimates (2015), total cultivable land in the country has come down by about 3.0 million hectare during the last two decades (1982-83 to 2012-13). However, the gross cropped area has increased from 172.7 million hectare to 194.4 million hectare due to implementation of various technological interventions during the same period. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare had been implementing various programmes namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation of Development of Alkali and Acid Soil (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation & also to maintain balance in various type of land uses across the country. These programmes have been discontinued with effect from 1st April 2013 due to introduction of a flagship Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Ministry of Rural Development, which has been further subsumed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from July, 2015. Besides, any State can take up promotion of terrace farming even under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana also. This type of activity is also supported under Rainfed Area Development programme of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
